

JULIUS KLEIN
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July 22, 1954

The Hon. Allen Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

My dear Allen:

I am attaching hereto a clipping from The
Sentinel of July 8, with an article entitled:

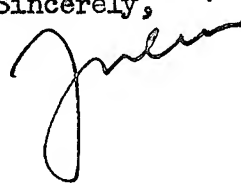
"Arab Ex-Nazi Honored By U.S. With Legion of Merit".

I consider it my duty to bring this clipping
to your attention. I cannot help but notice the
absence of such an honor being bestowed on Israeli
soldiers, many thousands of whom fought valiently
side by side with the Allies.

I feel sure that, sooner or later, this will
also be remembered.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Julius Klein/b

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Bonn's Restitution To Non-Israelis Almost Nil, German Jewry Complains

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., (AJP)—While the Israeli government appears satisfied with the goods and machinery received from restitution claims, Jews living outside of Israel—who have put forth their individual claims—are sorely disappointed at the laxity of the Bonn government in making good, it was reliably reported here from a German source. "Only token payments have been made to some individuals and these go primarily to destitute people above the age of 65," the source indicated. "But even these people do not receive the full amount due them." The maximum allotted to anyone is 5,000 Deutsche marks which is equivalent to about \$1,000, and this amount is broken up into such small installments that the recipients find it of very little help.

Austria Assures Arabs She Will Not Pay Restitution To Israel

WASHINGTON, (JTA)—The Austrian Government has sent diplomatic memoranda to Arab League states confidentially advising the Arabs that Austria has no intention of paying restitution to Israel, it was learned here last week.

The Syrian Embassy has confirmed that Syria has received such official advice from Austria. The Austrians told the Arabs they considered Austria to have been an innocent victim of the Nazis during World War II and therefore in no way obligated to Israel for claims arising from the Nazi persecution of Jews.

The Austrian communication said that Austria desires the friendliest relations with the nations of the Arab League. The Austrian Cabinet decided to send its position on Jewish claims to the Arabs through diplomatic channels after the Arabs protested to Austria against the position of the Jewish claims committee which is now negotiating with the Austrian Government in Vienna.

Berlin Jews Protest Government's Award To Anti-Semitic Actor

BERLIN, (JTA)—The Berlin Jewish community and democratic organizations and leaders throughout Germany have protested to Bonn President Theodor Heuss for the awarding of a German medal to Werner Krauss, 70-year-old German actor who was notorious during the Nazi regime for his anti-Semitic portrayals of Jewish characters.

The Berlin community noted that its attitude toward Krauss had not changed.

Other protests directed to President Heuss expressed "consternation and dismay" and spoke of the "collective shame" brought on Germany by the granting of such honors to Krauss in the name of the President.

Anti-Semitism Is Lesser Of Two Evils, Says W.J.C. President

PARIS, (W.J.A.)—"Assimilation of the individual Jew and disintegration of Jewish communities in many parts of the world has reached its peak," Dr. N. Goldmann, President of the World Jewish Congress, declared in an address to the Third National Conference of the World Jewish Congress French Section. "In comparison, anti-Semitism is the lesser of two evils threatening the existence of the Jewish people."

Dr. Goldmann called on Jews in the free world to realize the hard facts of post-war development. "Jewish life in Eastern and Central Europe," Dr. Goldmann said, "has for all practical purposes disappeared and will not rise again. This process is being speeded by Communists of Jewish descent who are the chief obstacle for the remnants of Jewry in Eastern Europe remaining linked with the rest of the Jewish world." It was all the more urgent to improve the foundations of the world Jewish community that remained in order to secure the future of the Jewish people; and to educate Jewish youth in a spirit of common responsibility for the fate of world Jewry.

Toronto Third Largest Jewish Community In Commonwealth

MONTREAL, (W.J.A.)—Toronto now ranks third among the Jewish communities within the British Commonwealth, exceeded in size only by the Jewish communities of London (England) and Montreal.

During the past century, the Jewish population of Toronto has increased from 57 in 1851 to 66,773 in 1951, and now forms almost one third of the total Jewish population of Canada. Jews represent approximately six per cent of the total population of Toronto, as compared with 5.23 per cent of the population of Winnipeg and 5.08 per cent of the population of Montreal.

The earliest Jewish settlement in Toronto (the town of York, as it was then known) dates back to 1817. A Jewish congregation was first mentioned in 1849. It is estimated that since 1951, the Jewish population of Toronto has increased by 7,727 to a total of 74,500 as of June 1954.

New Aliens Act To Begin In Sweden

STOCKHOLM, (W.J.A.)—A new law, regulating privileges and duties of aliens (including refugees), providing substantial improvement, came into force in Sweden on July 1.

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Arab Ex-Nazi Honored By U. S. With Legion Of Merit

By MILTON FRIEDMAN
Chief of the JTA Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—

The U. S. Government, which awarded the Legion of Merit to 344 American Jewish soldiers during World War II, more recently gave the same medal to an Arab general who fought on the Nazi side and later participated in aggression against Israel in contempt of the United Nations.

He is Maj. Gen. Mohammed Rafiq

Arif, Chief of the Iraqi Army General Staff. The Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) was pinned on his chest last month, at the Pentagon, by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, U.S. Army Chief of Staff. The gesture was approved by the White House. It was linked by the State Department "with the defense of the vital resources of the free world."

Gen. Arif was cited by the U.S.

Army in connection with the decoration. He was honored because "... His outstanding leadership, sound judgment, and exceptional energy in the performance of his duties with the Iraqi Army reflect distinct credit on himself and the military service."

No Israeli soldier has been decorated or cited by the U.S. Army. Gen. Yigal Yadin, Chief of Staff of

the Israel Army from 1949 to 1952, visited Washington at the same time as the Iraqi general. Gen. Arif fought against the Allies in 1941 when the Iraqi Army under Rashid Ali-el Gailani staged a pro-Nazi revolt. On that occasion Gen. Yadin dispatched Haganah men to join the Allied cause. There was a medal for Gen. Arif. The Pentagon wasn't interested in Gen. Yadin.

Iraqi Ambassador Moussa Al-Shabandar was a guest of honor at the reception and ceremony honoring Gen. Arif. The ambassador behaved politely but has publicly departed from diplomatic etiquette on other occasions by denouncing American Jewry and questioning the loyalty of Americans of Jewish faith.

The occasion for the award to Gen. Arif was his arrival in the United States as a guest of the Government to visit Army installations. He is here to complete arrangements to receive free munitions granted Iraq by the State Department. Israel applied for similar arms aid. The Israeli application has been ignored since 1952.

Aided Hitlerites

Iraq did more than any other Arab nation to aid the Nazis, to persecute its Jewish inhabitants, to introduce anti-Jewish propaganda in the United States, and to avoid an armistice with Israel. Yet it was selected by Secretary of State Dulles as the first Arab League member to receive free arms. Gen. Arif, who joined the Nazis when the Allies seemed on the brink of defeat, has been chosen as the first Arab League officer to be decorated with a U.S. medal.

Early in 1948, before the British withdrawal from Palestine, "volunteer" Iraqi forces invaded the mandated territory. Gen. Arif took part in this and subsequent aggressive actions against Palestinian Jewry and the nation of Israel. He and his troops were defeated by Jewish courage.

With the solitary exception of Iraq, all Arab League states signed armistice agreements. Therefore, Iraq is still in an active state of war with Israel. Iraq is a zealous organizer of the anti-Israel boycott and a leading foe of a peace settlement. In 1949 and 1950, the Iraqi Army joined in pogroms against Iraq's Jews.

Iraqi Prime Minister Fadhil al-Jamali is one of the most violent exponents of renewed warfare against Israel. It was Jamali who dispatched Gen. Arif to Washington. The same Jamali said that whoever would seek "peace with Israel would be guilty of high treason and should be hanged ... The destruction of Israel will be achieved only by a strengthening of the Arab states."

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